our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Winter 1988

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Publisher of
Our Fourfooted Friends

Arthur G. Slade
Editor

Richard W. Bryant
Associate Editor

Bob Howard
Photo Editor

M. Arlene Reilly
Consulting Editor

Officers

John C. Hatch
Chairman of the Board

Arthur G. Slade
President

John E. Dawson
Treasurer

Hewitt Morgan
Assistant Treasurer

Richard A. Hall
Secretary

Directors

Gage Bailey
Walter M. Bird, Jr.
Paul J. Brennan
Mrs. Alexander H. Bright
Shephard Brown
Mrs. George M. Cushing, Jr.
John E. Dawson
Mrs. David Dearborn
Rev. Robert W. Golledge, D.D.
Richard A. Hall
John C. Hatch
Franklin King, Jr.
Mrs. Jeffrey E. Marshall
Hewitt Morgan
Richard V. Rapacz
Harold H. Seward
Arthur G. Slade
Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
Philip W. Trumbull
Mrs. Donald Russell
John L. Worden III

Administrative

Thomas H. White
Director of Operations

Richard W. Bryant
Executive Assistant to the President

Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.
Director of Veterinary Medicine

Robert P. Kennedy
Controller

Arthur E. Penny
Director of Administration

Carol McCarthy
Law Enforcement Coordinator

Animal Shelters

Boston
Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts.
P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265
Patricia Kelly, *Manager*
(617) 426-9170

Cape Cod
Route 6A, E. Brewster, MA 02631-0023
Lynda Brogden, *Manager*
(508) 255-1030

North Shore
378 Highland Ave., Salem, MA 01970-1744
Mary Brasier, *Manager*
(508) 744-7910

Dedham
Pine Ridge Animal Center
238 Pine St., Dedham, MA 02026-4005
(617) 326-0729

Safford Memorial Animal Shelter
Robert G. Walsh, *Manager*

Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals
Michael P. Thomas, *Superintendent*

Animal Friends Summer School
96 Megansett Rd., N. Falmouth, MA 02556-0800
Edward J. Powers, *Director*
(617) 426-9170

Affiliations

Red Acre Farm
Hearing Dog Center
109 Red Acre Road, Stow, MA 01775

New England Federation of Humane Societies
Boston, MA

American Humane Association
Denver, Colorado

World Society for the Protection of Animals
Boston, MA (Regional Office)

Our Fourfooted Friends

(US ISSN 0030 6851) *Published quarterly by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221.* Price $4.00 a year. Office of Publication, Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Address all correspondence, editorial, subscriptions to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Post Master: Send address changes to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Second Class Postage has been paid at Boston, Massachusetts.

Winter 1988
Volume 85, No. 4

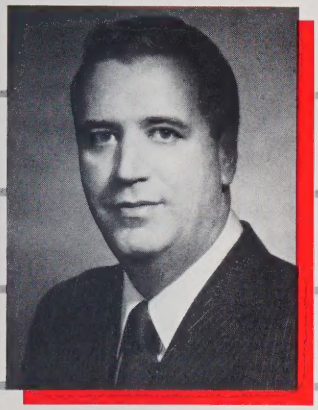
COVER:

"Moose," the Dedham shelter's mascot, wishes all of his shelter mates a warm hearth and home, for the holidays and all year long.

Photo by Bob Howard

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the President.. 3
90th Anniversary Celebration... 4
Don't Give Up on a "Bad" Dog 6
A Veterinary Update 8
Animal Photo Contest 9
WSPA Aids Hurricane Victims 10
Annual Fair 12
Readers Respond 13
Newsfront 14
Animal Friends 16
Pets in the Picture 18



Arthur G. Slade *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Woman of Courage and Conviction

As the League approaches its 90th Anniversary in 1989, it seems appropriate to look back to our beginning and pay tribute to our founder, Anna Harris Smith. She was a loving person and one who felt deeply about the humane treatment and care of animals.

She was a dauntless personality and yet a modest woman with persevering zeal that overcame one obstacle after another, fully justifying her cause and stimulating others to emulate her own shining example of creative good works.

On July 23, 1843, a daughter was born to William and Anna Clapp Harris in the Clapp family home on Pleasant Street in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Christened Anna Sarah Harris, the future founder of the League chose to be known simply as Anna Harris. Very early in her life she developed both a flair for music and a deep abiding feeling for animals and nature. In her early childhood days she showed a marked solicitude for animal life and often brought home an unfortunate dog or cat which she had discovered.

Her father was a strict and religious man and the disciplinary and moral virtues instilled in his daughter gave her a deep spiritual devotion to her great cause of later years.

Anna Harris completed her education in Boston and became an accomplished musician. She taught music, gave informal recitals with her brother Samuel, a talented violinist, and composed music for several songs.

In 1884 she married Huntington Smith, destined to be her life partner in humane endeavor. He became editor of the *Boston Beacon* in 1889 and later became its owner and publisher.

A number of incidents served to fuel the flame that caused Mrs. Smith to form the Animal Rescue League of Boston. In one case, a woman deeply shocked Mrs. Smith by telling her that when one of her cats grew too ill to catch mice, she would have it taken to the woods and dropped there.

As part of another activity, Mrs. Smith was active in visiting the poor. Apart from matters of human misery, she was overwhelmed by the conditions of the wretched animals she observed everywhere. This ranged from abandoned pets in back alleys to beasts of burden on the main streets.

Thus it was that a modest but forceful lady worked so hard to form the League with her dream realized on March 13, 1899 when her organization was incorporated in Boston.

It was she who coined the League's motto, "Kindness Uplifts the World." It was her courage and insight which guided the League for so many years. She was a driving force in the very early days of the humane movement in America when it was not common or comfortable for a woman to speak out above her male counterparts in such a bold and forward looking way. In reading many of her writings, it is obvious that she had a great humane ethic and concern for all animals which she was able to combine with practical ways and means to reduce suffering. It was her mission in life to eliminate the suffering of animals whenever and wherever she found it possible.

I like to believe that the love and spirit of this great lady is with us today in the missions we still carry forward on behalf of all animals. It is this motivation that is alive in our investigation of cruelty cases such as the Watson wild animals; our placement of pets in new homes; and our animal rescue and ambulance calls to relieve suffering and pain.

May this same wonderful spirit abide with you and make for you the true love of the Holiday Season.

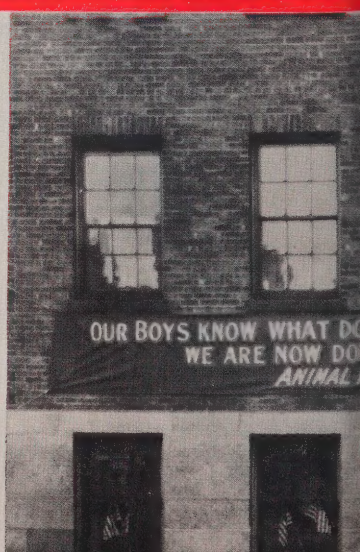
90 YEARS OF HELPING ANIMALS

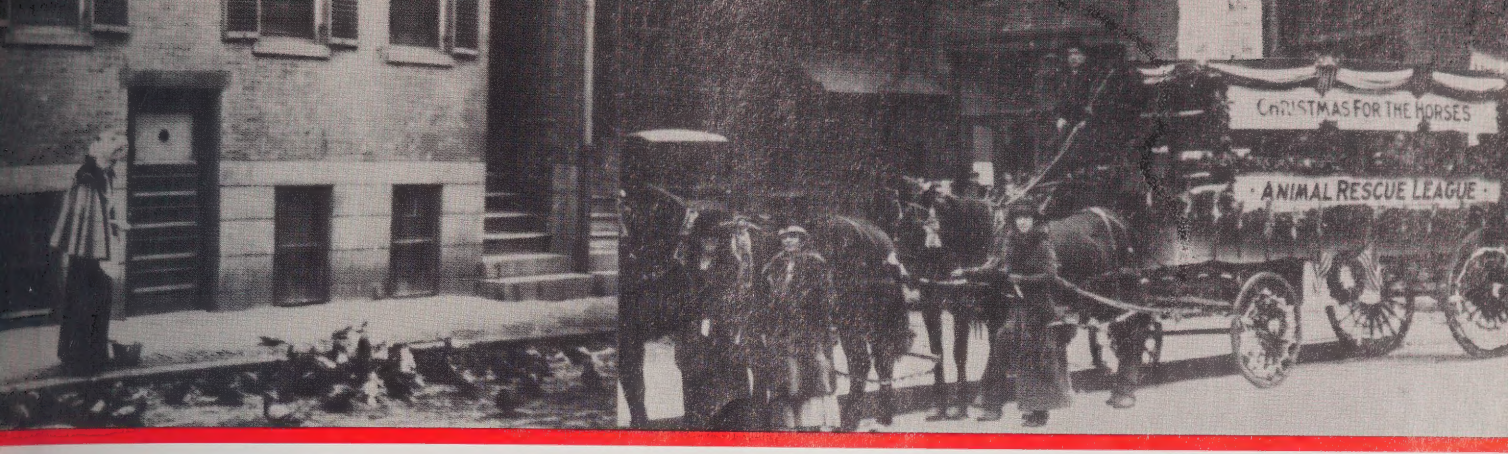
1899–1989

During the year to come, the Animal Rescue League of Boston will mark its 90th Anniversary, an opportunity to acknowledge and salute not only the remarkable vision of the woman who founded the League in 1899, but also the steadfast commitment of generations of members who have transformed her vision to action over the past nine decades, saving the lives of literally millions of our fellow creatures.

Anna Harris Smith

These nostalgic scenes from the League's past are displayed in a mural in the lobby of the League's headquarters in Boston.





Today a full-service humane organization with headquarters in Boston, and branch shelters in Brewster, Dedham and Salem, the Animal Rescue League of Boston began with a cry of protest from a single individual, Anna Harris (Mrs. Huntington) Smith, who wrote a letter to the Boston Evening Transcript calling for people who shared her concern to band together to halt widespread cruelty to animals. In response to her appeal, one hundred and ten people attended an organizational meeting at the Park Street Church in Boston on February 9, 1899. One month later, the Animal Rescue League of Boston was officially incorporated on March 13, 1899.

During its first year of operation, the League moved into headquarters on Carver Street in Boston's South End, and membership grew from 110 to 654. During 1899, the League cared for 1,595 dogs and cats, and members elected George A.O. Ernst as the League's first president. Two years later, Anna Harris Smith was elected president, and she continued to guide the League's aspirations and activities until her death in 1929.

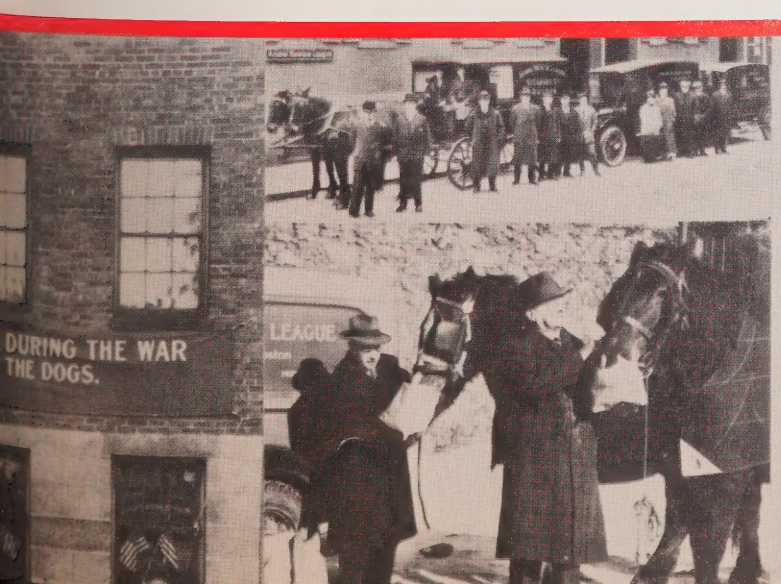
Much has changed over the years, but more remains the same. The League today continues its original mission of providing direct assistance to unwanted and mistreated animals of all kinds, helping over 70,000 animals each year through such programs as:

- Shelter for lost and abandoned animals
- Pet adoption centers
- Veterinary care for small animals in a modern outpatient clinic
- Lost and found programs
- Rescue operations
- Inspections and investigations of animal abuse
- Initiation and support of animal protective legislation
- Humane education programs for people of all ages

"We hope that our members and friends will join with us in celebrating our mutual pride in what has been accomplished in the past nine decades, and in our determination to make the coming final decade of the twentieth century a period of unparalled progress on the humane front," states Arthur G. Slade, League president. "Working together, we can surely achieve Anna Harris Smith's dream of a 'better world for pets and people.' "

Special anniversary events and activities are currently in the planning stage and details will be announced in future issues and in special mailings to League members. These programs include:

- An Anniversary Photo Contest (see details on page 9)
- An Anniversary Pet Show to be scheduled during Be Kind to Animals Week, May 6-12, at an outdoor location in Boston, with prizes for youngsters who enter pets in a wide variety of categories, pet care information booths, and other activities such as animal demonstrations, obedience programs, etc.
- Open House celebrations and special events at branch shelters in Dedham, Salem and Brewster and at the Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet.
- A photo exhibit of the "Animal Rescue League, Then and Now," to be displayed in bank windows, office lobbies and other public areas around Boston.



Don't Give Up on a "Bad" Dog!

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland

"I have to give up my pet." This is a statement repeated several times a day to the animal shelter employees at the four League locations. The reasons pet owners surrender their dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens are as complicated as they are varied: aggression, destruction of the household during owner absences, cats refusing to use a litterbox, dogs that wait until they come *inside* to urinate or defecate, excessive barking, and pet owners relocating to a "no pets allowed" apartment. Often there is no alternative to surrendering a pet, as in the case of the owner who must relocate; however, the other problems *can* be resolved if a pet owner is willing to make the effort required to do so.

Some behavior problems exhibited by pets have been established for so long that reversing them may not be possible. By the time a pet owner has reached the point of frustration that results in the surrendering of a pet, any advice shelter staff might give on correcting the problem has come too late. Ideally, an inappropriate behavior pattern in a pet should be treated immediately in order to successfully reverse it. Pet owners often unknowingly approve bad behavior by either ignoring it or trying to "wait it out," thinking it will correct itself. A pet can only know right from wrong, in human terms, if a human teaches it.

A boy and his dog demonstrate that patience and persistence are the keys to good training!

Animal behaviorist and trainer Dr. Amy Marder urges prospective pet owners to "start out *right* by choosing the correct type of pet for your lifestyle." Dr. Marder finds that pet owners occasionally adopt pets that are "too much for them" in that the pet may be too large for the person's living quarters, require more time and care than the owner anticipated, or simply cost too much to maintain.

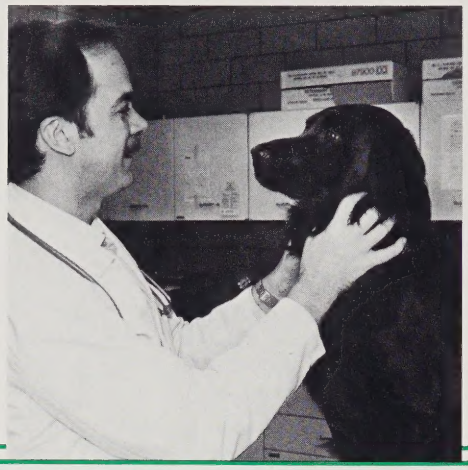
Dr. Marder notes that a common mistake made by parents is to "expect the children in the family to be the caretakers of the family dog. In these cases, the children are not mature enough to properly care for the pet and it inevitably ends up being ill-trained and an increasing nuisance to the parents." For busy people and families with young children, Dr. Marder suggests adopting a "cat, bird, or small pet that requires less maintenance and training." In addition, Dr. Marder urges all dog owners to enroll in obedience classes with their pets. Dog obedience courses teach dog and owner how to work together through learning voice commands and physical corrections. Pet owners have to learn *how* to teach their pet right and wrong. "A well-behaved, well-adjusted pet does not just happen," explains Dr. Marder. "Begin proper pet training from the very beginning because behavior problems are much easier to prevent than to change."

There are pet behaviors that, though seemingly related to a lack of training, are really physical in origin and are best referred to a veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment. Some behaviors that *may* indicate a physical problem are: spayed female cat or dog that begins to urinate in the house, male cats exhibiting spraying behavior in the house even after being neutered, submissive urination in dogs, or any sudden change in previously consistent housebroken behavior. If your pet exhibits any of these behaviors, see your veterinarian for advice on treatment whether it is physical or behavioral.

Kathy Sevcik, Editor of *Canine Companion Magazine* recently wrote about some experiences she encountered with behavior problems that, upon further investigation, turned out to have a medical explanation. Ms. Sevcik writes that a "seemingly nice dog" that would snap at people when a training collar was used on it would be sent to a veterinarian with its owner. This type of behavior could indicate a "deep-seated ear infection" that is aggravated by the rubbing of a training collar and causes great pain to the animal. Ms. Sevcik had an experience with her own Samoyed that taught her to look past the apparent "bad" behavior exhibited by an animal to the probable cause of that behavior. Her Samoyed was very stubborn and inattentive to any commands other than the ones she preferred to respond to which were, "a knock at the door, the bark of another dog, or the rattle of the food bowl." Eventually it was determined that the Samoyed was deaf and had really been responding to Ms. Sevcik's other dogs' running to the door after a knock, *seeing* the other dogs barking, and the *smell* of her food in the bowl. Ms. Sevcik advises pet owners that, "One of the first things to remember is that the dog is probably not trying to tell you that he wants another home. If you have been happy with him and he's been happy with you for a while, and something starts going wrong with him, *look at him.* Do a bit of detecting before you assume it is behavioral." Both Dr. Amy Marder and Kathy Sevcik agree that when a behavior problem develops with a pet, regardless of how long you have owned the pet, seek advice from your veterinarian. If the problem cannot be resolved medically, your veterinarian can refer you to a qualified animal behaviorist or trainer who can help.

Of primary importance in adopting a pet is to adopt the correct type of pet for your lifestyle and to be prepared to make a long-term commitment (many dogs and cats live 10 or more years) to properly caring for your pet. Proper care of a pet includes training the pet, and dealing with any behavior or physical problem that may arise. Pets adopted from the Animal Rescue League of Boston are thoroughly checked for behavioral and physical soundness before they are eligible for adoption. Despite the care used in "passing" an animal for adoption at the League, pet adopters must understand that there are no "perfect pets," no guarantees of 100% housebroken, immaculate, non-idiosyncratic pets. A pet in a humane society adoption center, whether it has come to the shelter as a stray or been surrendered by its owner, has had to make many difficult adjustments before it comes into the hands of a new owner. The fact that such a pet can remain affectionate and oriented to people is an indication that its personality is a good and flexible one. One thing that the League *can* guarantee is that the pets available for adoption have the potential to be wonderful pets if they are given the proper training and a fair chance.

Before you come to the conclusion that the only solution to solving behavior problems with your pet is to surrender it to a humane society, ask yourself a couple of important questions: Have you tried to identify the reason for the behavior problem? Did you seek the advice of a professional and consistently and sincerely utilize the advice or training with your pet? If you have done these things and there is no improvement in the behavior, you may have no alternative other than to give the pet up; however, as Kathy Sevcik says, "we owe it to our pets to investigate every possibility before we make a judgment."



A Veterinary Update

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Some Weighty Questions

Overweight pets face the same health risks that threaten overweight humans. Among the problems that can shorten the overweight pet's lifespan are heart and lung diseases; gastrointestinal disturbances; bone, joint and muscle problems, and metabolic disorders.

Animals differ in how quickly their bodies burn calories, so what is adequate nourishment for one pet may be too much for another, even if the animals are the same approximate size. Heredity can also influence weight problems; certain breeds of dogs, for example, like dachshunds and beagles, are more prone to obesity than others.

So how do you determine how fat is too fat? Rather than simply relying on what the scale tells you, check certain body spots if you suspect your dog or cat's fur coat is hiding an expanding waistline. First, feel the stomach. You should be able to discern a waistline behind the rib cage. If the abdomen is sagging, or you can feel a pocket of fat around the midsection, your pet is probably carrying too much weight. Next, run your hand over the rib cage. You should be able to feel, but not see, the outline of each rib. Your veterinarian can tell for certain if your pet is too fat, and suggest an effective weight control plan.

In addition to reducing your pet's caloric intake at meals, and eliminating those treats and snacks, an effective weight control program must include a regular exercise schedule to get your pet back in shape. For dogs, a daily regime of walks in the morning and evening will help burn calories and turn fat to muscle, but be careful not to overtax very obese animals. For a fat and lazy cat, try stimulating its interest with new toys or a change in environment that will encourage it to explore and exercise.

Here are some other food-related questions frequently asked by pet owners:

Q. Can my dog or cat get worms from eating candy or other sweets?

A. No, pets do not get worms from eating candy, or commonly from raw food, another misconception. Animals can be born with worms, contracted from their mother, or can pick up worm eggs from contaminated surroundings. There are five common kinds of intestinal parasites that affect dogs and/or cats: tapeworms, ascarids (roundworms), hookworms, whipworms, and coccidia (a one-celled organism called a protozoa). A laboratory test of a stool sample is required to determine what kind of parasite an animal has and, from that diagnosis, which kind of medication will be effective in de-worming.

Q. Does my pet need to get its teeth cleaned?

A. Because of their inability to brush after meals, some animals develop tartar, gum problems, and even cavities. Much depends on your pet's body makeup, heredity and habits. Your pet's mouth should be checked during its annual health examination and your veterinarian can tell you whether teeth cleaning is in order. A bad odor emanating from the mouth, red or bleeding gums, or visible foreign objects lodged in the teeth are obvious signs of trouble that require prompt attention. Ignoring these symptoms can lead to infections that will undermine the animal's overall health and well-being.

FOCUS ON PETS

THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON'S

90TH ANNIVERSARY

ANIMAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

What animal lover has not tried to capture his or her own pet's special grace, beauty, and unique appeal on film? As a salute to animals and the friendship and affection they have shared with people through the ages, the League is sponsoring an Animal Photography Contest as part of its 90th Anniversary Celebration.

Members, friends, and amateur photographers of all ages are invited to submit their favorite animal photos to the League by March 31, 1989. A panel of judges will award prizes in two divisions, adult and junior (under 18). First, second and third prizes, consisting of gift certificates in the amounts of $200, $100 and $50 for photo equipment and supplies, will be awarded in each division for two categories, color and black-and-white, and certificates will also be presented for honorable mention.

An animal must be the focus of the photo, but can be shown alone, with other animals, favorite objects as props, or with people. All photos must be unretouched, and enlarged to 5x7 inches, or 8x10 inches. Negatives should be kept by contestants, but able to be made available later for reproduction in the case of award winners. Please do not submit slides.

Winners will be announced during Be Kind to Animals Week, May 6-12, 1989, and the award-winning photos will be reproduced in the summer issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends*. Each photo submitted must have the photographer's name, address, phone number (and age if a junior entry) printed on a label or sticker affixed to the back.

Please send entries by March 31st to: Animal Photo Contest, Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117. All photos submitted will become the property of the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Give us your best shot!

For best results, here are some suggestions:

- Do not write on the back of your photo with pen or sharp pencil, either of which will mar the surface of your print.
- Keep backgrounds simple, so attention focuses on the animal rather than a cluttered background.
- Plan your setting and get your props in place before you bring in your animal to pose.
- Pay attenton to lighting, whether daylight or flash. Be sure lights capture highlights, shadows and interesting details of markings.
- Encourage your pet to stay put by using props that will capture his interest, like a basket, a drawer, or a paper bag.
- Use a whistle, a rattle, or even crumpled newspaper to make a sound that will capture your pet's attention.

INTERNATIONAL TEAM

As Hurricane Gilbert gained intensity in the Caribbean, the Boston office of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) mobilized to set up an international disaster network. Member societies in the path of the hurricane were contacted and all regional offices were put on alert with staff on 24-hour call. WSPA's network of amateur radio operators were contacted and asked to prepare for transmitting and receiving messages from the disaster areas. Radio equipment was set up in the Boston office and phone circuits were devised for international conference calls.

WSPA staff and volunteers organized shifts to maintain 24-hour vigilance. Those WSPA members who in the past pledged support for animal disaster relief were contacted. Their response was nearly unanimous, allowing staff to depart for the devastated areas. Field staff from the Costa Rican office assembled veterinary supplies and were dispatched to Mexico. Field representative Alvaro Posada-Salazar, from WSPA's Colombian office, was dispatched to Jamaica. WSPA member societies offered staff and assistance, if needed.

The hurricane, one of the most violent in modern history, occurred on September 15, 1988, Mexican Independence Day. The damage was extensive, with nearly 95% of the homes severely damaged or destroyed. Despite the difficulties, Gerardo Huertas (WSPA Costa Rica office), who was dispatched to Mexico, reported that WSPA was in Cancun helping animals before the Red Cross convoy reached that city.

As reported in the *Tico Times,* Central America's largest English language newspaper:

> "When Huertas arrived in the Yucatan Peninsula, he found that the damage to animals was worse than he had expected. The four-man WSPA team arrived in the inland city of Merida five hours after the hurricane—which had killed 22 people—had passed. There was no food or electricity and, in some cases, people were swimming out of their homes.
>
> Traveling to Cancun, they fed abandoned animals, administered injections, and euthanized those that were dying from wounds or disease. They found pets that had been tied up inside houses and drowned, and horses that had been killed by falling trees. Huertas described the surviving animals as 'really crazy' with fright.
>
> The poultry farms near Cancun were devastated by the hurricane's wind, which reached 300 kilometers per hour. Huertas fed the animals in Cancun—mostly domestic pets—that had been abandoned and arranged for the Mexican army to continue to care for them.
>
> At Isla Mujeres, where most of the animal population had been swept out to sea, at least 2,000 animals—cats, dogs, sheep and pigs—had drowned. He counted 20 animals left on the island."

Alvaro Posada-Salazar reported from Jamaica massive destruction and disruption of electricity and drinking water. The poultry industry in the country was also destroyed. Nearly 5.5 million birds died of suffocation, drowning and trauma. While no animals were killed in the zoological park, many enclosures were destroyed by high winds and falling trees. Zoo officials asked for assistance in finding new locations for many of the animals, including large cats, peccary, and large birds. The local humane society received minor damage and continued to provide services. Animals injured by flying debris or falling vegetation were immediately destroyed.

'D HURRICANE'S NIMAL VICTIMS

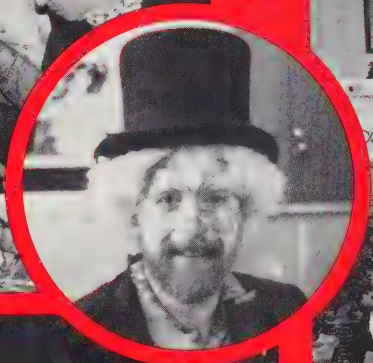
WSPA members will recall the organization's work in rescuing animals around the world and bringing aid to animals affected by earthquake, fire, drought, and floods. In two of its most renowned rescue operations, Operation Noah II and Operation Gwamba, WSPA staff rescued and relocated more than 13,300 jungle animals in Panama and Surinam. WSPA works in concert with the United Nation's Disaster Relief Office, and is the only international animal protection organization to maintain a disaster relief fund. Regional Director John Walsh credits the WSPA membership for the organization's success. "We never lose sight of the fact that it is the dedicated members who allow us to carry out these services," he says. "Whenever, wherever—we are ready."

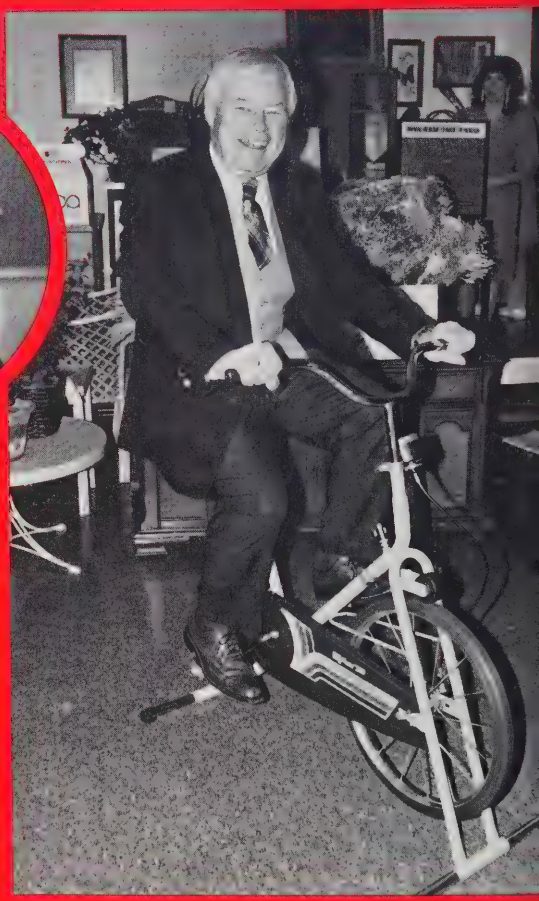
"A special thanks is in order to those member societies who offered staff and assistance during this emergency. And a very special thanks to those individual members who came to our aid at a time of need, which allowed us to bring aid to the animal victims of Hurricane Gilbert," Walsh states.

The Animal Rescue League is a founding member society of WSPA and the way in which the League participates in international animal rescue efforts is through its support of WSPA activities.

WSPA representative Gerardo Huertas (top left) examines injured poultry in El Cedral, Mexico. At left, a pet dog guards his destroyed house in Cancun, while (above) dogs, pigs and other animals roamed through the streets of Mexico after the destruction.

ANNUAL FAIR '83





Thank You For Your Letters

The warm outpouring of support from members and friends who read of the "Mistreated Menagerie" at the Watson farm was a source of gratification and encouragement for everyone involved in the case. Especially heartwarming were the many, many people who took the time to write thoughtful letters, some of which are excerpted here. As this issue goes to press, over $20,000.00 has been contributed to allay expenses of the case.

"The story of Becky the camel and her friends was quite sad to read, but the outcome turned out to be much happier . . . I am glad there are groups such as yours to defend and 'speak' for the animals for they cannot do it themselves."

M.M., Methuen

"It's nice knowing that there are people who care enough to help our fourfooted friends and that they are making the public aware of the great work they're doing to protect the animals."

N.A., Dedham

"I'm only 14 years old but I am a big animal lover and I hate to see any animal sick, injured or neglected . . . I can just imagine how you must feel when you see all those sick and dying animals."

K.S., Arlington

"Countless accolades to all of you—the Board of Directors, Tufts Veterinary School, Franklin Park Zoo and Bassetts Wild Animal Farm. Highest honors to the League Staff for their heroic aid and comfort in the rescue of the tragic plight of all the suffering animals at Watson Farm. Blessings to all of you."

V.O., Boston

"The story in your current issue of Fourfooted Friends on the Essex, Massachusetts Menagerie is utterly appalling and very disturbing. I was once again struck by how hard it must be for your agents when confronted with such cruelty, and I would like for you to convey my appreciation to them for sticking with an especially tough job that must be done."

J.K., Boston

"What an incredible horror story . . . and an equally incredible tale of rescue and caring on the part of the Animal Rescue League and a few individuals. Keep up the good work!"

Dr. & Mrs. E.P., Winchester

"Most of the time I try to block my eyes to the torture that is going on; I always feel it's a losing battle. I was so happy to hear of the outcome of the 'Menagerie.' God bless all who helped the poor suffering souls."

E.C., Woburn

"I was in tears when I finished reading that story. Were you able to save the other animals on the farm? . . . Those animals are so helpless! Thank you again, and I hope those animals will be ok."

D.C., Sudbury

"Congratulations on a super, super job—have always had respect for your organization, but this is really outstanding!"

J.D., Winchester

"I'm proud to be a member of an organization which steps in and does the right thing . . . I think it's important to act first, and worry about the money later. Keep up the good work. There are too many Brian Watsons out there."

G.G., Needham

"Please consider this a guilt-induced contribution. I met Mr. Watson . . . it was years ago that two friends and I went to the Ponderosa. We got a limited and closely guarded tour of the animals . . . The man's demeanor was cagey at best. We did see the elephant and some kind of large feline. Both animals appeared healthy . . . Again, we were closely escorted while we were there, and his attitude was sneaky, but the animals did not appear to be abused. Even thinking back to that time, I knew that exotic animals were illegal to most people, but Mr. Watson had a threatening manner to him that I would not cross lightly. Yet, when I read in the paper that an elephant had been found on Rte. 1, I knew exactly where it had come from. What bothers me the most is the questions. He at some time over all those years had to have had professionals on the premises . . . and he actually showed these poor animals at fairs or carnivals! Why was everyone silent? I hope the camel, elephant and others will forget this experience of man's inhumanity in their new homes.

E.McG., Brookline

"My heart went out to those poor mistreated animals . . . Thank God there are caring people like you to help them. I am enclosing a check. I know it's not much. I am a retiree on a limited budget, but I do want to help in some small way."

M.F., Quincy

"This man should be put in a cage and fed moldy bread for a few years!"

H.L., Rowley

"I collected coins for this money . . . it isn't much but I hope it will help the animals."

A.P. Brewster

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

SUPER CATS STAR AT BOSTON CAT SHOW

While purebreds and pedigrees abounded at the Boston Cat Show held at the Boston Garden October 1, a group of street-smart, mixed-breed cats, all former orphans adopted from animal shelters, were the real scene-stealers at the prestigious event. Among those entered in the shelter cat category were these two charmers, both adopted from the Animal Rescue League (l to r): "Emily" from the Boston shelter with owner Sandra Bierig, "Kahlua Brown" from the Brewster shelter with owner Sally Nichols, and at the microphone is David Tagliatela of Hills Pet Products, event sponsor, and the first judge on the left is Cleveland Amory.

After the event, Amanda W.I. Rose of Brookline wrote in a letter to the *Boston Globe*: "I hope those who visited the cat show will remember that thousands of kittens and cats are euthanized every year but, if adopted and loved, they too could become 'Super Cats.' "

LEAGUE SANTA TO VISIT BOSTON HORSES

Members and friends are invited to join the festivities when the League holds its annual Christmas Dinner for Horses, Thursday, December 15, at 11 a.m., in front of Faneuil Hall in Boston. Representing the Animal Rescue League in a tradition that dates back to 1913, Santa Claus will present carrots, apples, horsefeed and new blankets to Boston, State and MDC Police horses, while League agents deliver similar treats to working horses in area stables.

NEW BOOK FOR CAT LOVERS

The Cat Empire, by Michael Weigall. A fascinating collection of cat lore through the ages and around the world, this book is illustrated with photos of the author's cat "Merlin," featured in 28 poses wearing humorous and elaborate period costumes as he assumes identities ranging from the suave "Monsieur Miao" to the "Mexico Mouser." Perigree Books, 64 pages, $7.95.

JAPAN SETS SPECIAL DAY FOR CATS

Japanese cat fanciers now celebrate February 22 as Cat Day. That day was chosen for the annual observance because the date 2-22 in Japanese is pronounced "ni-ni-ni," approximating the Japanese equivalent of "meow-meow-meow," according to a report in the newsletter *"Pets 'n' People."* Speaking at the first Cat Day, Professor Naoki Yanase observed: "Cats are more than just pets. They radiate serenity and are essential for the well-being of humans."

LEAGUE ALUMNUS SAVES OWNER'S LIFE

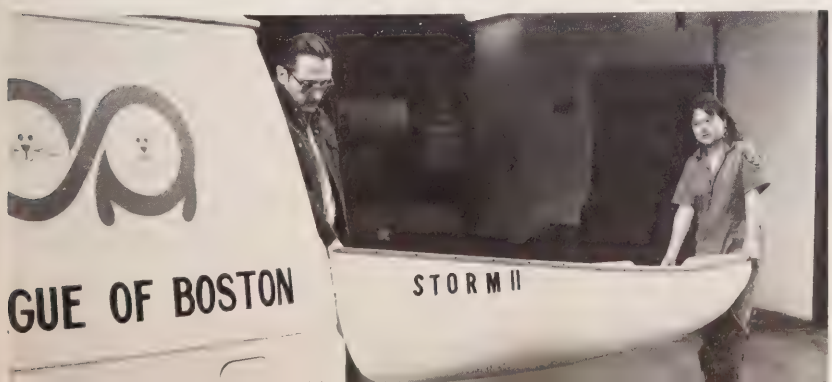
"Chico," a mixed breed pup from the Animal Rescue League that was trained as a "hearing dog" through the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog program, was honored recently for saving his owner, Elizabeth K. Smith of Watertown, from a fire on board a bus. By frantic gyrations and activities, "Chico" persuaded his hearing impaired owner to vacate a bus. Once outside, she saw that the bus's roof was on fire. The dog was awarded the 1988 Gaines Dog Foods Award, one of five Delta Society/American Animal Hospital Association Assistance Animal Awards presented each year.

STUDENTS VISIT FOURFOOTED FRIENDS

Seventh grade students from the Charles E. Mackey School pose with their teacher, Elizabeth Ruffo (far right); League president Arthur G. Slade (left); and John C. Hatch, chairman of the board (right). The group toured the adoption shelter on the day of the annual fair, donated funds and a thank-you card in appreciation for a guinea pig which they adopted from the League as a classroom pet, and decorated the shelter with posters they created around humane themes. Many of these youngsters also took part in the Animal Friends Summer School program last June for Mackey School students.

STORM II IS READY TO BE LAUNCHED

Finishing touches are put on Storm II, the League's new rescue boat, which was donated by Henry T. Wiggin of Brookline. The boat's predecessor, Storm I, which was also donated by Mr. Wiggin, was retired after many years of extensive use in water rescues of animals trapped in area lakes and rivers. The approaching spring months will bring the greatest need for the new boat, as iced-over surfaces begin to thaw and crack, providing treacherous footing for small animals.



WSPA HALTS CRUELTY TO CALVES IN MEXICO

An investigation and action by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has prompted the U.S. government to take steps to halt inhumane methods used to slaughter newborn calves and fetuses to obtain bovine serum for scientific research purposes.

WSPA uncovered a thriving business in Mexico, with the serum being sold to U.S. researchers to be used in the making of cell tissue culture medium, ironically a widely heralded substitute for live animal research. The newborn calves were being deprived of food or water to prevent their blood from being tainted by antibodies, and then bled to death, often without the use of anesthesia. The import of products obtained in this inhumane manner was permitted by a loophole in U.S. regulations, whereby the serum was not covered under the existing Humane Slaughter Act because it is not used for human consumption.

Responding to protests from WSPA, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have now notified all individuals holding licenses for bovine serum that the USDA would withhold import licenses from any organization dealing with establishments that do not comply with humane slaughter regulations. WSPA is also expanding its investigation of this issue to other countries, particularly those with inadequate animal protection regulations.

Let's Help the Birds This Winter!

Wild birds need food during the winter and one special and fun way you can help them is by setting up a bird feeding station.

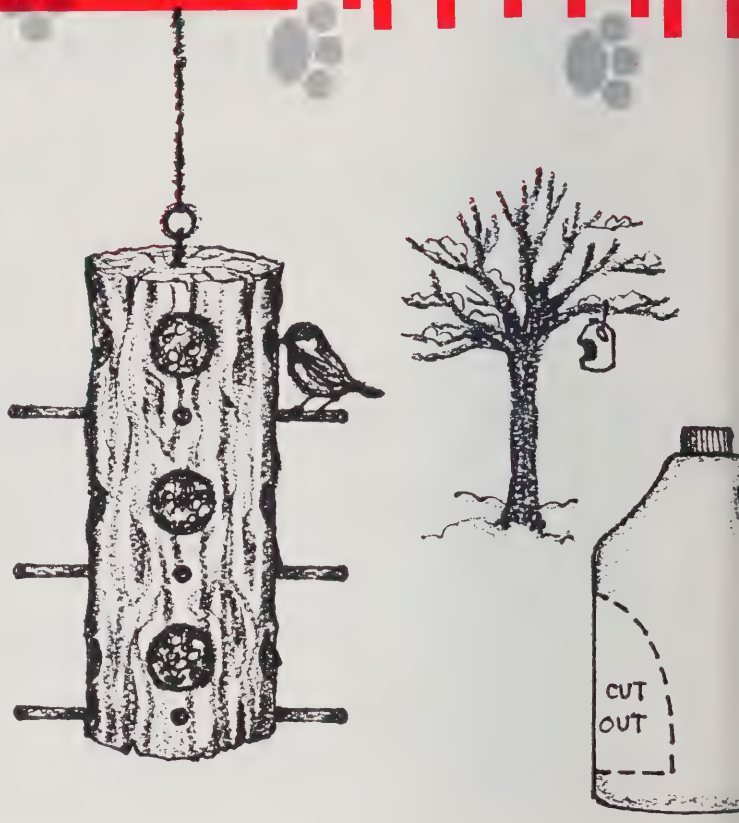
When it snows or rains, or the ponds freeze, the wild birds that you see around where you live sometimes can't find any food or water at all.

No matter where you live, the wild birds will find your bird feeder if it is placed outside in a spot that is easy to see. If you live in an apartment, there are bird feeders that attach to a window. These are lots of fun because the birds come right up to your window and you can watch them eat, but they can't see you, so they don't get scared and fly away.

If you live in a house with a backyard, you can put up many different kinds of feeders—on the top of a post, or on a deck, or hanging from a tree branch.

If you want to buy a new bird feeder, the best places to find them are feed and grain stores, garden centers, and hardware stores. Feeders come in all shapes and sizes, and at many different prices. You and your family can buy a good bird feeder for about ten dollars.

You can also make a bird feeder from almost anything you find around your home. Clean, empty plastic bleach or milk bottles can be changed into bird feeders or water stations very easily. Simply cut openings in the plastic bottles, as shown in the picture on this page. Make sure you leave a small flap on to *protect* the smaller birds in bad weather. Don't cut the hole all the way to the bottom of the bottle, because you have to have sides to keep in the bird food. A piece of thin rope or wire should be tied to the bottle handle, so that the feeder can be hung from a branch or plant hanger.



Another type of bird feeder you can make, with a little help from an adult, is a log feeder. Take a small log and drill ½ inch-deep holes into it as shown in the picture. You should also drill smaller holes all the way through and insert sticks in them, so that the birds will have a place to *perch* while they eat.

The best food for the log feeder is *suet,* suet mixture with seed, or peanut butter mixtures. Birds love peanut butter, but it should always be mixed with seed, corn flakes or dried bread crumbs. Crunchy peanut butter is the best kind to use. Wild bird seed mixture or sunflower seeds are the best types of food for the plastic bottle feeder, and most of the feeders that you buy in the stores. You can buy bird seed at the same place that sells feeders, and also most supermarkets.

If you would like to see a *variety* of birds visit your home, you should set up two different feeders and give the birds different foods from time to time. Besides what we have already mentioned for food, birds also like cracked corn, wheat, all kinds of seeds, nuts, berries and baked goods like bread or donuts.

FRIENDS

Please remember that once you start feeding your new bird friends during the winter, you must always keep food in your feeder. The birds learn to depend on you and, without the food, they could go hungry.

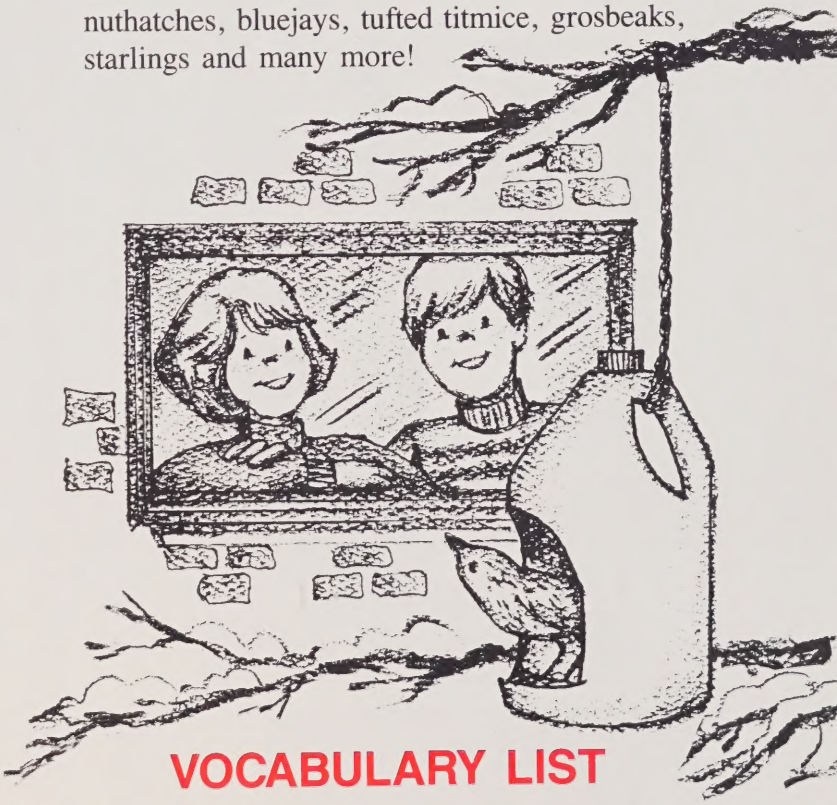
Water is very important to the birds during the winter months. At times, lakes, ponds, and streams may be frozen over, making it very *difficult* for birds to find water to drink. You can help them by placing fresh water outside, near your feeding station. Use a small shallow dish made of plastic. A special water heater can be bought in a store that can be used to keep the water from freezing.

There are a few things to think about when you are placing your feeder. One is wind direction. Which direction does the wind blow from most of the time? It usually comes from the north. Try to place your feeder out of the wind if possible, or if the feeder is in an open place, have the back of the feeder face the wind. This way, the feeder will serve as a shield to protect the birds from the wind, and will keep blowing rain or snow from getting inside the feeder and getting the food wet. Feeders that are placed near shrubs and trees help give birds close-by hiding places if an enemy should happen by. But don't place the feeder too close to branches on a tree, or the house, where squirrels can climb up and into the feeder. Squirrels will just sit inside a feeder and eat everything, and leave nothing for the birds to eat. You can help feed squirrels and chipmunks by spreading food on the ground for them.

Keep your feeders full of food well into the spring. By then it will be easy for the birds to find *natural* foods for themselves.

If your parents plan to plant new trees, shrubs or flowers in the spring, ask them to buy types that will help our bird friends. Some kinds of trees provide food and shelter, such as maples, oaks, birches, cedars, dogwoods, crabapples, ash, pines and spruce trees. Good shrubs to plant are blueberry, blackberry, elderberry, huckleberry, mulberry, bayberry, junipers and bittersweet.

There are lots of books about birds that are fun to read. Bird guide books can be used to *identify* the different kinds of birds that visit your feeder. Each page has pictures or photos of different birds. Place the guide book near a window close to the feeder. Make a list of all the different birds that come to visit. If your family has a pair of *binoculars,* place them near the window too. That way you can get a good close look at your feathered visitors. You can expect to see chickadees, cardinals, woodpeckers, sparrows, finches, nuthatches, bluejays, tufted titmice, grosbeaks, starlings and many more!



VOCABULARY LIST

Protect – To shield from danger of being hurt.
Perch – A place to sit or stand.
Suet – Animal Fat.
Variety – Different kinds, an assortment.
Difficult – Not easy to do.
Natural – To be like nature, not artificial.
Identify – To name.
Binoculars – A small telescope to use with both eyes at once.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1

5

2

6

3

4

1 " 'Shaney' is 11 years old and is still amusing us," write Dorothy and Herbert Carver of Barnstable. "This time she has cleverly figured out a quick way to quench her thirst!"

2 Winifred Farina of Woburn sent a donation to help the animals in memory of her late pet "Bandit," who is pictured here in his yard. "I miss this beautiful dog so much," she writes, "but he was a great comfort to me, and will never be forgotten."

3 "Mittens," adopted by Mildred Ruhmpohl of Boston at three months of age, is described by her fond owner as "very pretty and happy at the age of eight years."

4 "Thank you so much for brightening our days with our kitten 'Rosie,' " write Jennifer and Paul Zecevic of Brookline, who adopted their photogenic pet at the age of nine weeks. "She is an adorable, playful kitten who, at this very moment, is trying to get near the typewriter!"

5 Twelve years ago, Jo Ann Bennett of Brewster adopted "Jellybean" who is "so named because she arrived in my life on Easter weekend. She has been a real delight. As you can see, she gets along beautifully with her Golden Retriever sister, 'Taffy.' Thanks for the great job you're doing—the Brewster shelter is terrific," Ms. Bennett writes.

6 Katherine Barbato of Canton sent a donation for the care of animals "in memory of our dear 'Puffy' who passed away last year . . . it broke our hearts."

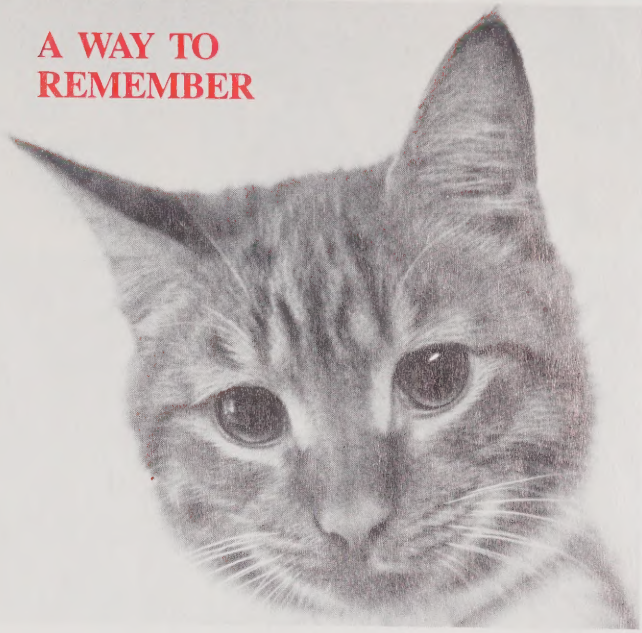
A gift of love at Christmas

The love and companionship of a pet makes home a warmer place, during the holidays and all year long. Make Christmas dreams come true, and enrich the life of someone you love, with a pet adoption gift certificate from the Animal Rescue League of Boston, available at any of the League's four adoption shelters.

Boston: 10 Chandler Street **(617) 426-9170**
Dedham: 238 Pine Street **(617) 326-0729**
E. Brewster: Route 6A **(508) 255-1030**
Salem: 378 Highland Avenue **(508) 744-7910**

Animal Rescue League of Boston
A non-profit humane society helping animals since 1899.

A WAY TO REMEMBER



The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is
"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"
that is was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Moving?

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS without interruption.

Old Address:
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wishing you a holiday filled with all of your favorite things!

Season's Greetings
from all of your friends at the
Animal Rescue League of Boston

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

Ms. Darlene Mergendahl
15 North Clement Avenue
Rowena, N. Y. 12143